

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/21/2012 05:27 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest for 2/21/12

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Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. William Lacy Clay (Mo.) – Email – 2/21/12: Requests an update on the status of the Feasibility Study for West Lake Landfill Superfund site. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Todd Akin (Mo.) – Letter – 2/7/12: Concerns about soil test data and analysis conducted on Strecker Forest Development property in the city of Wildwood. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Lee Terry (Neb.) – Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting latest update on Omaha site and access agreements. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.): Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting information on Brownfield and Superfund sites in Nebraska. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Ben Nelson (Neb.): Meeting 2/3/12: Requesting that EPA attend a meeting with the Norfolk Chamber of Council – Green Council. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Legislative Liaison (Iowa) – Requesting informal review of multiple bills. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Inside EPA - Suzanne Yohannan – 2/9/12: Questions regarding Kansas Army Ammunition Plant and pesticides. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Kansas City Star – Mike McGraw – 2/16/12: Questions about civil enforcement actions involving large concentrated animal feeding operations. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Kansas City Star – Traci Angel – 2/21/12: Information about a children's health grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Omaha World-Herald – Nancy Gaarder – 2/21/12: Questions about sewer improvement projects in Omaha, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Judge: EPA shouldn't overhaul Missouri water standards - 2/17/12 - A federal judge has agreed with a St. Louis-based environmental group that the state has violated the federal Clean Water Act by not taking steps necessary to protect thousands of miles of rivers and streams from pollution. But U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughery dismissed other claims by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment that the federal government should compel the state to do so.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/judge-epa-shouldn-t-overhaul-missouri-water-standards/article_86c49194-59c0-11e1-9e92-0019bb30f31a.html also KanGen Water (blog), Kansas City Star,

Columbia Missourian - City Addressing Backflow Issues - 2/18/12 - The city is working to make its water system safer by cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in regards to backflow preventers. City Administrator Rick Childers informed the board of aldermen last week that the check valve system is being more strictly enforced.
http://www.emissourian.com/news/st_clair_news/article_c96e78ec-599e-11e1-abe9-0019bb2963f4.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Creve Coeur launches EPA Green Power Community Challenge: Effort compliments City's Climate Action Plan – 2/19/12 - Creve Coeur's City Council recently voted to further the City's leading Climate Action effort by initiating an EPA Green Power Community Challenge.
<http://interact.stltoday.com/pr/local-news/PR02171204248260>

Wichita Eagle - Climate peaceful at 'Occupy Koch Town' protest - 2/19/12 - About 150 protesters marched through downtown Wichita on Saturday afternoon as activists from across the country gathered for the weekend "Occupy Koch Town" rally. Throughout the day, speakers addressed a variety of issues dealing with energy, environmental, climate policies and the controversial Keystone pipeline.
<http://www.kansas.com/2012/02/18/2221453/occupy-march-brings-about-150.html>

The Independent, Grand Island, Neb. - EPA takes step toward E15 availability - 2/19/12 - E15 ethanol fuels took one step closer to commercial availability Friday. EPA approved health effects testing on E15 fuel submitted by the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) and Growth Energy.
http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag/epa-takes-step-toward-e-availability/article_2d609736-5ac6-11e1-a295-0019bb2963f4.html

RenewablesBiz - Wind farm location draws ire - 2/18/12 - Some local officials feel environmental advocates have gotten in the way of economic development in Finney County, with regard to a wind farm project that is taking off in Grant and Haskell counties in Kansas.
<http://www.renewablesbiz.com/article/12/02/wind-farm-location-draws-ire>

Renewable Energy World - Brightergy Solar Awarded \$1.1 million contract by City of Clayton, Mo. - 2/20/12 - Brightergy has been chosen to install the 105.6 kW solar project at the Clayton Police Station, assisting the city in retaining their EPA Green Power Community Designation.
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/brightergy1/news/article/2012/02/brightergy-solar-awarded-1-1-million-contract-by-city-of-clayton-mo>

Quad-City Times - Iowa American plans treatment change - 2/20/12 - Iowa American Water will adjust its treatment process for the next four weeks as part of its regular, ongoing water main flushing program. From Monday through March 19, the company will switch its disinfection method to a form of chlorine known as "free chlorine" which does not contain ammonia.
http://www.qctimes.com/news/local/iowa-american-plans-treatment-change/article_2949e028-5c3b-11e1-bfce-001871e3ce6c.html

Des Moines Register - Iowa View: Better ways to recycle those drink containers - 2/21/12 - Recycling isn't just a nicety any more. The material, energy, water and other resources that are saved when commodities are recycled have made recycling an imperative for businesses and our economy as a whole. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120221/OPINION01/302210039/1035/>

Quad-City Times - Wapello seeks water plant financing - 2/17/12 - The Wapello wastewater treatment facility may get a \$1.73 million facelift, if all the funding possibilities fall into place. The City Council approved a facility plan that details the improvements during its regular meeting Thursday.
http://www.qctimes.com/news/local/wapello-seeks-water-plant-financing/article_3371830a-59eb-11e1-81a1-0019bb2963f4.html

Des Moines Register - Alliant plans more natural gas projects - 2/18/12 - Is the age of coal ending for Iowa's utilities? Five years ago, Alliant Energy wanted to build a coal-fired plant now it wants to convert the Marshalltown unit to natural gas. Costs have fallen so much in the past five years it is now feasible.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120219/BUSINESS/302190022/1029/>

Brownfield Ag News - E15 clears final EPA hurdle – 2/20/12 - E15—the blend of 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline—has cleared its final federal regulatory hurdle. The EPA has approved E15 health effects testing, which means retailers and fuel companies can now register for approval to sell the fuel. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/02/20/epa-clears-final-epa-hurdle/>

Living on Earth (blog) - Chemicals and Health (audio) – 2-20/12 - There are tens of thousands of chemicals in everyday products. Only a fraction of these have been tested for toxicity and health effects in the U.S. Host Bruce Gellerman talks to Richard Denison, a senior scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund, about news studies that raise troubling health questions. <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=12-P13-00007&segmentID=4>

Lawrence Journal-World - Kansas water policy changes moving forward - 2/20/12 - Legislators moved forward Monday on Kansas water policy changes aimed at improving conservation efforts and prolonging the life of water supplies. The measures are designed to preserve the life of the Ogallala Aquifer and give farmers more flexibility to manage their resources during times of drought. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/feb/20/kansas-water-policy-changes-moving-forward/>

Omaha World-Herald - Wind developers wait for tax deals - 2/21/12 - Like pearly white stick figures striding across the horizon, 81 wind turbines slowly spin on the hills surrounding Petersburg. The electricity they generate makes this northeast Nebraska farm town of 372 people the state's wind-energy capital. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120221/NEWS01/702219922>

Lincoln Journal Star - Johnson County targeted for wind farm - 2/21/12 - Chicago-based Invenergy is positioning itself to build a wind farm with up to 37 turbines and 60 megawatts of generating capacity in Johnson County. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/johnson-county-targeted-for-wind-farm/article_998d7f29-2a0e-5d11-8607-bc69d5f7976c.html

Des Moines Register - ISU study finds many Iowa lakes are dirtier, less healthy - 2/21/12 - Iowa's lakes are far dirtier now than they were before farming and development arrived, a first-of-its-kind study of 150 years' worth of lake silt has found. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120218/NEWS/302180027/ISU-study-finds-many-iowa-lakes-are-dirtier-less-healthy>

The Times-Picayune, New Orleans - EPA official leaves eye of political storm - 2/21/12 - Paul Anastas has just completed his second stint at EPA, serving the past two years as the agency's science adviser and assistant administrator for research and development, perhaps the most important job in the agency after that of the administrator, Lisa Jackson. http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2012/02/epa_official_leaves_eye_of_pol.html

Yale E360 - EPA Releases Long-Awaited Health Assessment of Dioxin Risks – 2/20/12 - EPA on Friday released its long-awaited assessment of the toxic hazards of dioxins, a group of persistent contaminants emitted by chemical plants, waste incinerators, and other industrial facilities. http://e360.yale.edu/digest/epa_releases_long-awaited_health_assessment_of_dioxin_risks/3340/

Greenwire - Automakers back EPA tailpipe proposal – 2/17/12 - A coalition of automakers urged U.S. EPA last week to proceed with stricter standards for tailpipe emissions, highlighting a divide within industry over the potential new regulations. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/02/21/17>

Environmental Health News - Solvent exposure at work, home may increase risk of Parkinson's disease - 2/21/12 - Even relatively limited exposure to some common chemical solvents at work or through hobbies may increase the risk of having Parkinson's disease (PD), report researchers who found a higher risk regardless of the number of exposures, their duration or lifetime totals. <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/2011/12/2012-0220-solvent-increases-parkinsons>

[ns-risk/](#)

Newsday - Opinion: The dark side of composting - 2/20/12 - Composting usually invokes images of doing something positive for the Earth; reducing, reusing and recycling all wrapped up together. After all, it turns waste into a resource we need. But there's also a dark side to this expanding industry. When not properly regulated, large-scale composting and transfer stations are downright damaging to surrounding communities. <http://www.newsday.com/opinion/oped/opinion-the-dark-side-of-composting-1.3538060>

Medical News Today - Dioxins Do Not Pose Significant Health Risk.. Generally, Says EPA - 2/20/12 - Although dioxins, even in small amounts, are dangerous to health, EPA emphasized that, overall, dioxin exposure does not currently pose an important health risk. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/241912.php>

BNA - EPA Did Not Evaluate Cumulative Effect Of Power Plant Emission Rules, Brief Says - 2/21/12 - The Environmental Protection Agency has not evaluated how various environmental regulations targeting power plant emissions cumulatively will affect compliance options, an intervenor and three friends of the court said in a brief seeking to vacate the agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24671685&vname=dennotallissues&fn=24671685&jd=a0d0u4n5q5&split=0

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/29-3/2/12 – 2012 Combined Federal Campaign Training, San Antonio, Texas. Contacts: Mark Hague, 7546, and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/6/12 - Radio Interview for Smoke Management Series with Eric Atkinson, Kansas State University, Regional Office. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/14/12 - EPIC Training, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

3/19/12 - National Tanks Conference & Expo, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Margaret Stockdale, 7936 and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/28/12 – Joint Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association and Missouri Water Environment Association, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071, Karen Flournoy, 7782

4/24/12 – Washington University – Environmental Policy Course, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253, and Julia Cacho, 7071

5/3/12 – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Energy and Environment Council Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Becky Weber, 7487 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

2/23/12 - Agricultural Business Council Monthly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

2/29/12 - Upper Mississippi River Meeting, Davenport, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

3/13/12 - Northeast Nebraska Stakeholders, West Point, Neb. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

2/22 – East-West Gateway Meeting of Air Quality Stakeholders, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147.

2/21/12 – Meeting with P2 Program members, USDA, Iowa DNR and Small Business Administration, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

3/1/12 - Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

3/9/12 – Redistribution of EPA Region 7 outreach materials to Education Network members, Regional Office. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

3/27 – 29/12 - Annual WORKS Conference on Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Energy from Waste and Composting Conference, Dodge City, Kan. Contact: James Callier, 7646

3/28/12 - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

3/28/12 - Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, EPCRA outreach meeting, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/3-5/12 - Kansas Local Emergency Planning Committee conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/26/12 - SPCC Outreach to Sunbelt Environmental, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

CNSL

2/29 - 3/2/12 - Advanced Civil Environmental Enforcement Seminar, Columbia, S.C. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

3/12-15/12 - FEM/TEM meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Alyse Stoy, 7826

ECO/EJ

***2/22/12** - Oak Grove Neighborhood Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

2/28/12 - Society of American Military Engineers Industry Day Education and Training Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

2/21-23/12 – Community Interviews, Compass Plaza Well Site, Rogersville, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/27/12 – Public Availability Session, 10th Street Site, Columbus Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/28/12 – Public Meeting, Chemplex Site, Camanche, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

***2/29-3/1/12** – State Legislature, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/6/12 – Meeting with IDNR Legislative Liaison, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/7/12 – Meetings with the offices of US Senators Harkin and Grassley, and US Reps Boswell and Latham, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/8/12 – Attend Iowa Legislature Committee meetings, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

SUPR

2/24/12 - Mercury and HazCat Training for First Responders, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

2/28/12 - Public Meeting at 10th Street Superfund Site, Columbus, Neb. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

3/1/12 - Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Mary Peterson, 7882

3/13-14/12 - FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625

4/10-12/12 - Oil Program Manager's meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

3/27-29/12 - OSC Readiness Training Board meeting, location TBD. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/17-19/12 - Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

5/1-3/12 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, location TBD, Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

WWPD

2/22/12 - Kansas State Technical Committee meeting regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Service's new water quality initiative, Salina, Kan. Contact: Steve Schaff, 7447

2/28-29/12 - Kansas Water Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

3/1/12 - Kansas Rural Water Association workplan meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Stephanie Lindberg, 7423

3/5-7/12 - 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Steve Kovac, 7698, John Reyna, 7021

3/12-15/12 - Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

3/26-29/12 - 2012 Kansas Rural Water Association Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Doug Brune, 7178

4/16-20/12 - National TMDL/303(d) Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067

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